

February 24, 2014

The Honorable Carlo Leone
The Honorable Jack Hennessy
Co-Chairs
Veterans' Affairs Committee
Room 509A, Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Leone and Representative Hennessy:

On behalf of UNITE-HERE, I write to express my support of SB-0212, An Act Concerning Implementation of the Recommendations of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force.

UNITE-HERE stands behind our veterans, our military spouses, and Connecticut. We believe this bill is an important and vital measure toward reducing veterans' and military spouses' chronic underemployment in Connecticut. These veterans and spouses bring stellar technical training and education with them to the state. Currently, that expertise is going to waste while veterans and military spouses satisfy redundant training and licensing requirements or choose to take jobs far below their qualifications. By requiring state agencies and educational institutions to appropriately credit military experience, this bill will help to harness veterans' and spouses' prior experience to strengthen Connecticut's economy. We also support the bill as a measure that demonstrates our state's commitment to those that have already committed themselves to public service.

We are grateful to the Veterans' Affairs Committee for proposing the bill and raising awareness of the particular barriers to employment and education that continue to face veterans and military spouses. On behalf of UNITE-HERE, we urge the committee and legislature to vote in favor of SB-0212.

Sincerely,

Gwen Mills
Political Director, CT
UNITE-HERE